

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138778

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CA

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ON CERTIFICATION OF
BEEF AND PORK EXPORTS FREE OF DES

REF: OTTAWA 2013

1. THIS MESSAGE WILL CONFIRM AND AMPLIFY JUNE 24 TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION BETWEEN SMITH (EUR) AND DCM JOHNSON. YOUR
ACCOUNT OF YOUR REPRESENTATIONS TO RITCHIE (REFTEL) MUCH
APPRECIATED.

2. DEPARTMENT URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT
STATUS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA REGARDING A
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CERTIFICATION SYSTEM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO CANADIAN LIFTING

OF TOTAL BAN ON IMPORTS OF BEEF AND PORK FROM THE U.S.

3. IN PARTICULAR,

(A) WHAT IS EMBASSY'S VIEW OF PROSPECTS THAT CANADIANS WILL AGREE TO EARLY (I.E., JULY 2 OR 3 AT LATEST) FURTHER MEETING ON CERTIFICATION SYSTEM?

(B) HOW OPTIMISTIC CAN WE BE THAT GOC REGARDS THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS SERIOUSLY AND THAT AGREEMENT CAN EVENTUALLY BE REACHED?

(C) PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR RETALIATORY ACTION. ONE POSSIBILITY IS TOTAL BAN ON IMPORTS FROM CANADA OF BEEF AND PORK PRODUCTS UNDER SECTION 252(A) OF THE TRADE EXPANSION ACT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS IMPOSITION OF QUOTA SYSTEM ON CANADIAN EGGS AND TURKEY MEAT. WHAT IS EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF EFFECT ON U.S. INTERESTS IN CANADA OF THREAT OF SUCH RETALIATION AND CONSEQUENCES FOR U.S. INTERESTS IF RETALIATION CARRIED OUT? SPECIFICALLY, WOULD SUCH ACTION LEAD TO SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES OVER DES INSPECTION PROCEDURES? WOULD IT LEAD TO FURTHER RETALIATORY ACTION BY CANADA AND, IF SO, WHAT WOULD BE THE LIKELY FORM?

(D) WHAT WOULD BE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TIMING OF SUCH THREAT OF RETALIATION WITH REGARD TO JULY 8 ELECTIONS?

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